

such as an area code or country code, and may store this information with an associated subscriber record so that each conferee may be appropriately billed. For example,

<u>Conferee enters:</u>	<u>DNIS info:</u>	<u>PIN entered:</u>	<u>Conference I.D.:</u>	
1-800-555-1234	800-555-1234	5678	12345678	= Toll-free
1-617-555-1234	617-555-1234	5678	12345678	= Billed

5 According to one embodiment, the teleconferencing bridge may be provided with software to implement the methods described above. The teleconferencing bridge may include programmable device, such as a digital signal processor (DSP) or microprocessor, or may be interfaced with a personal computer to run the software. The method may be implemented as one or more software instructions, that may be executed
10 by one or more processors associated with the teleconferencing bridge. The instructions may be encoded on a computer readable medium, such as one or more compact discs (CDs), diskettes, integrated circuit chips, or any other suitable medium or media. The method may also be encoded as a set of instructions modulated on a carrier wave which may be transmitted to the teleconferencing bridge to be executed on a microprocessor or
15 other programmable device at the bridge.

 According to another embodiment, the method for teleconferencing described above may be implemented using voice-over-IP or a similar technology. As described above, voice-over-IP refers to a communication methodology wherein voice is transmitted over a data, typically packet switched, network such as the Internet or a local
20 area network (LAN). In one example each conferee may be provided with an IP address, which may be given as a domain name. Instead of the conferee entering a telephone number via a telephone handset, the conferee may use any suitable Internet browser to access their assigned IP address. The conferee may then enter their assigned PIN, and the teleconferencing bridge may connect the conferee to a conference, according to any
25 of the embodiments described above. The conferee may use a telephone interface, for example software provided by an operating system on their computer, to use, for example, the computer's microphone and speaker, a headset, or a digital telephone, to interface to the computer and to conduct the conference. The data network may be interfaced with the public switched telephone network, or the entire teleconferencing

system may be Internet-based, without using a public switched telephone system except insofar as the Internet inherently relies in part on the public switched telephone system.

Having thus described various embodiments and aspects thereof, several modifications or variations may be apparent to those of skill in the art. Such
5 modifications and variations are intended to be covered by this disclosure which is by way of illustration only and not intended to be limiting. The scope of the invention should be determined from proper construction of the appended claims, and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

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